United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/628
26 April 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is "deeply disturbed" by reports this morning that three Palestinians were killed and scores wounded by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

+ Secretary-General, addressing Fourth International Donor Conference on Emergency Assistance to Mozambique, says international support is vital if Mozambique is to confront the obstacles confronting it. An appeal for $136 million was launched earlier. Prime Minister of Mozambique also addresses session.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is "deeply disturbed" by reports received this morning that three Palestinians were killed and scores wounded by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

A statement attributable to a spokesman said those acts of violence, which took place on the first day of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr, and which occurred shortly after the incidents during Holy Week in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, "show regrettably a disregard for the sensitivities surrounding the holiest days of the Muslim and Christian calendars".

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The Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, opening the Fourth International Donor Conference on Emergency Assistance to Mozambique this morning, said the individual and collective support of the international community was vital, if Mozambique was to surmount the continuing and grave obstacles confronting it. The 1990/1991 Mozambique Emergency Appeal calls for $136 million to provide life-saving food and relief assistance to some 2 million displaced Mozambicans who have fled their villages and lost all their belongings.

The Secretary-General said the appeal this time contained virtually no provisions for assistance to the affected urban population or structural

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rehabilitation projects. The Government had decided to deal with those as part of its expanded economic and social rehabilitation programme. He said Mozambique's enormous problems were not of its own making, but were a result of the destabilization war that had beset the country for more than a decade. These problems had been compounded by a succession of natural disasters that had further taxed the Government's limited financial resources.

In addition to the human suffering taking place, the whole rural infrastructure and economy had been devastated, the Secretary-General continued. As a result, despite its rich agricultural potential, Mozambique had become one of the most poverty-stricken countries in the world. Almost a million people had sought refuge in neighbouring countries, particularly Malawi which had generously allowed some 750,000 Mozambican refugees to settle within its borders. Within Mozambique, there were 2 million internally displaced people who had sought refuge in the relatively secure areas around provincial and district capitals. In the past nine months, he said, there had been hopeful signs that some progress was being made towards peace negotiations.

Prime Minister Mario Da Graca Machungo of Mozambique said thousands of people in his country faced tragic food shortages, as the amount of food relief received last year was less than that pledged by donors previously.

An estimated 4.3 million people in the country were in dire need of food relief, he said, and another 2.4 million needed resettlement, after being displaced by the civil war. The new appeal for relief aid was intended to resettle returning refugees, and to provide them with health, education and nutrition programmes. Mozambique needed more trucks to haul relief food to rural areas. There was also a need to increase the Government's programme of providing people with agricultural tools and crop seeds to enable them to become self-reliant in food.

He said his Government continued to expound the need for peace and had initiated talks with the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) rebels aimed at restoring stability and tranquility. Only then could Mozambique count on any meaningful reconstruction programme.

The Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly last November to continue his efforts in mobilizing the financial, technical and material assistance required to assist in Mozambique's economic rehabilitation. As part of this mandate, he dispatched a United Nations Inter-Agency Mission in February to help the Government to prepare a report on the country's emergency needs.

The present appeal was limited to the food, health, education, drinking water and other survival requirements for the displaced population and for those returning refugees who could be reached. The appeal document stresses that these requirements are absolutely minimal if the prevailing condition of malnutrition is not to slide inexorably into starvation, a process which has already begun in some areas. The financial requirements set out in the document total $136 million, of which emergency food aid, at $56.9 million, is the largest single component.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/629
27 April 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General launches urgent appeal for food, transport and medical assistance for northern Ethiopia; Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah briefs correspondents about emergency relief assistance to the country.

+ Secretary-General and President of General Assembly address African Group solemn meeting to commemorating Namibia's independence.

+ Bettino Craxi, Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Debt, concludes talks with United States officials.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has launched an urgent appeal for food, transport and medical assistance to help large numbers of people in drought-stricken areas of northern Ethiopia to overcome the risk of starvation.

In a report on the subject, the Secretary-General states that conservative estimates place the number of people at risk at 2.3 million. Unlike the drought of 1984/1985, the problem today was not only the question of mobilizing adequate humanitarian supplies for the affected population, but of ensuring their early delivery to areas where access had been severely impeded by conflict.

In the Secretary-General's view the next four months would be a crucial period. To avert a major disaster, it would be necessary to deliver approximately 45,000 tons of food each month. That quantity would pose considerable logistics problems, given the condition of roads, the terrain and the security situation in the contested areas.

The Secretary-General initiated several steps to ensure a co-ordinated response by the United Nations to appeals for assistance. They included the appointment of Timothy Painter as his Special Representative for Emergency Relief Operations in Ethiopia, and the reactivation of the United Nations Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Group in Addis Ababa. These actions were followed by visits to Ethiopia by the Under-Secretary-General for Special

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Political Questions, Abdulrahim Farah, in March and April. The purpose was to discuss with the Ethiopian Government, as well as with other parties involved in the emergency, ways and means in which the United Nations could play an expanded role in relief operations. The Secretary-General has since reached agreement with the Ethiopian Government on the need for such a role.

Briefing correspondents today about emergency relief assistance to Ethiopia, Under Secretary-General Farah presented two documents, one prepared by the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on the question of the emergency situation in northern Ethiopia, and the other a new report prepared by the United Nations on emergency assistance to Ethiopia.

According to Mr. Farah, the problem this year was not so much of having difficulty in mobilizing sufficient food for the people in the affected areas, but rather the question of delivery and how to ensure that the food reached the people in need as soon as possible.

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The African Group of States at the United Nations held a solemn meetings this morning to commemorate Namibia's independence. Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-General said he remembered well, in the critical months before the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia, how closely he worked with the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the question of Namibia's independence.

The United Nations role in drawing up and implementing the independence plan for the Territory was both unique and successful. However, to a large extent the plan derived direction and strength from the contribution and support it received from the African community. Namibia's political independence, would have no real meaning, he said, unless it could be firmly based on social and economic development. The task today must be enhanced further by providing the people of Namibia with all the necessary assistance that was required to help them build their nation and strengthen their economy.

The President of the General Assembly, Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), told the meeting that during the admission of Namibia on as a Member of the United Nations, he had paid special tribute to Africa along with all those who assisted in every way possible to make Namibian independence possible. He now paid tribute to the African delegations to the United Nations, saying that without the African Group it would not have been possible to realize the objectives of the Organization.

He said that Namibia, in joining the African Group at the United Nations, would boost its Members, strengthen the resolve and add to the collective wisdom and aspirations.

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Bettino Craxi, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on Debt, has just concluded a visit to the United States. He met with the

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Secretary-General and briefed him on work already carried out and meetings held in Europe. He also met with President George Bush of the United States and suggested that the debt issue be placed on the agenda of the summit of the industrialized countries in Houston in July and, made a similar request to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank.

In a speech at the United Nations, Mr, Craxi said the growth of debt, which in the developing countries had doubled in the last 10 years up to $1.25 trillion, was "pathological", in that spirally debt generated new debt, with an accumulated interest of $560 billion. In the poorer highly indebted countries, payments for interest alone were over twice the amount of outstanding debt.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/630
30 April 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's spokeswoman says direct meetings are expected to take place between his Representative, Alvaro de Soto, Government of El Salvador and FMLN, within first fortnight of May.

+ General Assembly is addressed by Foreign Minister of Namibia as it ends general debate of special session on economic co-operation.

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Direct meetings are expected to take place within the first fortnight of May between the Government of El Salvador, the Frente Farabundo Marti Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and the Secretary-General's Representative, Alvaro de Soto.

On 4 April, the two parties met with Mr. de Soto in Geneva and agreed that a period of reflection and preparation as well as consultations would begin immediately to lay the groundwork for those meetings.

Today, the spokeswoman for the Secretary-General told correspondents that the agreement called for strict confidentiality regarding the process, and that the Secretary-General and his Representative would be the sole authorized sources of information about it. The Secretary-General wished therefore to announce that, since the 4 April agreement, he had been in touch with both the Government and FNLM through his Representative. They had kept him informed about their preparations for the substantive stage of the process. Both sides had continued to co-operate with the Secretary-General's efforts.

Mr. de Soto met with President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador recently in Nicaragua on the occasion of the inauguration of the new President in that country. He has also been repeatedly in touch with FMLN. He is due to travel shortly to the region to meet with the Government and FMLN.

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The General Assembly's special session on international economic co-operation met this morning to conclude its general debate.

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Addressing the world body, the Foreign Minister of Namibia, Theo-Ben Gurirab, referred to his country as "a child of the international community", and urged the community to "extend to Namibia's reconstruction phase the same solidarity and unity of purpose it demonstrated during the fight for independence".

Mr. Gurirab outlined a number of the problems faced by Namibia, among them high unemployment, a distorted income pattern -- with 55 per cent of the population having a per capita income of just $63 per year -- and a history of educational expenditure that was in almost "perfect disproportion" to the ethnic make-up of the country. "When we lived in exile, we had the luxury of watching many Governments grapple with the problems of statehood and national development", he said. "Now it is our turn."

Statements were also made by the representatives of Bhutan, Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

During the general debate, which began on Monday, 23 April, and extended two days longer than expected, the Assembly heard from 136 speakers, including the President of Cyprus, the Prime Minister of Peru, three Deputy Prime Ministers and 39 Foreign Ministers.

The final declaration for the special session is being negotiated in the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee. When those negotiations have been completed the Assembly will meet to adopt the declaration.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/631
1 May 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ General Assembly ends eighteenth special session on international economic co-operation, adopting 38-point Declaration; hears closing statement by Assembly President. Chairman of the session's Ad Hoc Committee and Assembly President brief correspondents on Declaration.

@ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council extension of mandate of United Nations Observer Group in Central America for a further period of six months, until 7 November.

@ Secretary-General arrives in Vienna to chair spring meeting of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; will also meet with Austrian leaders.

@ Economic and Social Council begins first regular session of 1990, hearing calls for vigilance against human rights violations and for assistance in the revitalization of economies of developing countries.

* * *

The General Assembly this afternoon adopted a Declaration, as it concluded its eighteenth special session on international economic co-operation.

In the 38-point Declaration, agreed to after intensive negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee of the session, the Assembly urged developed countries to enhance "the quantity and quality" of their aid and to implement the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in official development assistance (ODA) and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries.

The Assembly called on the multilateral financial institutions to provide developing countries with the necessary external resources to facilitate structural reform and to assist in programmes designed to alleviate adverse consequences of adjustment for poor and vulnerable groups. It called for an urgent solution of the external debt problem of the developing countries on "a durable and broad" basis. It urged that serious consideration be given to

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work on a growth-oriented solution of the problems of developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt was mainly to official creditors or to multilateral institutions.

The Assembly called for exploration of the feasibility of creating a United Nations disarmament/development fund to which savings from reductions in military expenditures could be channelled for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries. Support for Eastern European countries in integrating themselves into the international economy was urged. The Assembly stated, however, that such help "must not detract from the high priority placed on international development co-operation with the developing countries".

In a closing statement to the special session, the Assembly President, Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), said the Declaration marked a watershed in the history of international economic co-operation. The Declaration, which had taken 10 long years to achieve, was remarkable in many respects, he said. It did not hark back to unproductive posturing of the past, yet it recognized the stark contrasts that scarred the international economic landscape. Rather than scraping those wounds, it sought to suture them. While the Declaration might not reflect, in its minutest details, the views and aspiration of every Member State, he said it did reflect a common ground and a basis for future international co-operation.

Development, he said, was as much a condition for human survival as peace and security. Even as the world community welcomed the prospect of a new era of peace and stability, it must not be forgotten that a stable peace could not be constructed so long as prosperity remained the privilege of the few, and the problems of underdevelopment, poverty and hunger persisted on a wide scale in the world. Economically, the world was rapidly becoming interdependent. That had compelled a fundamental rethinking on development and a growing convergence of views on economic policies. "Our Declaration is infused with this spirit", Mr. Garba said.

The Declaration, he continued, spelled out the obligations of all groups of countries. The industrialized countries were called upon to pursue policies that would help restore a favourable international economic environment and give urgent attention to a durable and comprehensive solution to the debt problems of developing countries. The latter, on the other hand, were urged to mobilize their human, financial and physical resources through effective national policies which "should have as their main objective the betterment of the human condition and the enhancement of the contribution of all persons to development".

Mr. Garba said that, given the importance of the document and the aspiration it held out for many developing countries, he hoped the Secretary-General would establish a mechanism to monitor its implementation.

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At a press conference earlier today, the Assembly President told correspondents that the entire session had been characterized by a "spirit of co-operation rather than confrontation". Nations had talked frankly to one another.

Constantine D. Zepos (Greece), Chairman of the special session's Ad Hoc Committee, told the press that the achievement of consensus was an achievement of the totality of the United Nations. The Members had shown "goodwill, co-operation and common sense" to come to a solution which, if it was not ideal to everyone, met the interests of all up to a certain acceptable degree, and "that means a success for the United Nations", he said.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) for a further period of six months, until 7 November.

In a report to the Council, the Secretary-General stated that this recommendation was made on the understanding that, in accordance with the agreements signed by the Nicaraguan parties concerned, ONUCA's tasks of monitoring the cease-fire and separation of forces in Nicaragua and demobilizing members of the resistance in that country would lapse with the completion of the demobilizing process not later than 10 June, and that shortly thereafter the Venezuelan battalion of some 700 soldiers would be repatriated. He further stated that he intended to present to the Council, shortly before the expiry of the present mandate on 7 May, an addendum to the present report containing an up-to-date account of ONUCA's performance and of the progress of demobilization.

The Secretary-General stated that, in spite of recent prospective developments in Central America, notably the elections in Nicaragua, the imminent demobilization of the members of the resistance in that country and the early start of talks under his auspices between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), "it would be prudent" to leave ONUCA's mandate and military observer strength unchanged for the time being. He said he was strengthened in that belief by recent consultations with the five Central American Governments, all of which had expressed the wish that the Council should extend ONUCA's mandate in its present form.

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The Secretary-General arrived today in Vienna where, during the next three days, he will chair the spring meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and have meetings with Austrian leaders.

Upon his arrival the Secretary-General met with Catherine Lalumiere, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. They discussed in detail the

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situation in Central Europe and problems of minorities, co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe, the Cyprus problem and co-operation between Europe and developing countries.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet later in the day with President Kurt Waldheim of Austria.

Tomorrow, he will discuss the international situation with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and hold talks on Thursday with Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General will travel to Prague for a three-day official visit to Czechoslovakia. After that visit, he will travel to Hungary for a three-day official visit, and then to Albania for a two-day visit.

On Sunday, 13 May, the Secretary-General will leave Tirana for Rome, on his way back to New York.

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Calls for vigilance against human rights violations and for assistance in the revitalization of the economies of developing countries were heard this morning, as the Economic and Social Council began its first regular session of 1990.

On the question of new agenda items, the Council deferred action on a request by the Soviet Union, Byelorussia and the Ukraine for the inclusion of an item entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant". Also deferred was an Egyptian request for an item on revival of the Library of Alexandria.

An explanatory memorandum accompanying the letter from the three Soviet Republics stated that a thorough investigation of the accident, which occurred on 26 April 1986, had now led to the conclusion that never in the history of mankind had there been a technological disaster so destructive and so unprecedented in its consequences for the health and the lives of present and future generations and for the state of the environment.

A draft resolution embodied in the letter would have the Council request the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of ACC, proposals for a programme of international co-operation for the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident and to submit a report on the subject to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Council would also request the Secretary-General to send an inter-agency mission to the areas affected by the accident to evaluate their priority needs.

Addressing the session, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, said there must be more open and non-discriminatory access to markets for developing countries, and that they, particularly African States and other low-income countries, should also be given relief from the debt trap, as well as increased concessional resources. In addition, he called for better access to new technologies

necessary for the process of revitalizing the economic growth and development of those countries.

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Head of the Centre for Human Rights, Jan Martenson, said peace and human rights were interdependent, and that economic and social development also went hand in hand with respect for human rights. There had been improvements in the human rights situation in parts of the world, but vigilance must be maintained with regard to rights violations in other countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/632
2 May 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General opens meeting of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in Vienna.

+ United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator makes urgent appeal for relief assistance to Liberia, where the situation is deteriorating due to insurgency.

+ Palestinian Rights Committee says in letter to Secretary-General that it is "deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity" of recent settlement activities and increasing incidents of oppression by Israel of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory.

* * *

The question of development and international economic co-operation, and the impact of the recent evolution of East/West relations on the growth of the world economy, was discussed today in an open meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) at the United Nations Vienna International Centre.

Chaired by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the meeting followed a private briefing by him on the world political situation, and focused on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation.

The discussion was to continue in the afternoon, followed by a dinner in the evening in honour of all participants, to be hosted by President Kurt Waldheim of Austria.

Later today, the Secretary-General was to meet with Franz Vranitsky, Federal Chancellor of Austria, for a discussion of the international situation.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) has made an urgent appeal for relief assistance to Liberia. According to

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information received at Headquarters, the situation there is deteriorating due to insurgency. A tense situation is reported, with armed rebels approaching the capital of Monrovia. A rapid deterioration of health is predicted for those living in the bush who are unable to attend health clinics if the situation continues.

The United Nations is in the process of evacuating non-essential staff and their families, leaving only those absolutely necessary in the area, such as the UNDRO team.

The report states that the distribution of relief and medical treatment continues, but more help is needed. Discussions are presently under way with the United States Agency for International Development and the Liberian National Disaster Relief Commission to fund additional distribution teams.

Food assistance has been requested for the next year along with medical staff, equipment and supplies. A request has also been made for agricultural supplies, such as seeds, tools and livestock. The report also states that new wells are needed and many bridges and roads are in need of repair.

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The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has informed Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar that it is "deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity" of the recent settlement activities and increasing incidents of oppression by Israel against Palestinian civilians, and the mounting number of victims in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), said the Committee deplored the repressive policy and practices of Israel, which were in violation of its obligations under the Geneva Convention and were contrary to the provisions of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The Committee considered that the adoption of urgent measures by the Council to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians was imperative, and it appealed to the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to adopt intensified measures to alleviate the suffering of the unarmed Palestinian civilians.

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CORRECTION: In Tuesday's Highlights (Press Release DH/631), the first sentence of the first paragraph on page 2 should read, as follows:

"The Assembly called for exploration of the feasibility of channelling some of the savings from reductions in military expenditures through financial mechanisms for development."

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/633
3 May 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council meets to discuss situation in occupied Arab territories.

+ Secretary-General, on third day of his stay in Vienna, continues meetings with Austrian leaders; chairs Administrative Committee on Co-ordination sessions.

+ Secretary-General says in addendum to his report to Security Council on United Nations Observer Group in Central America that "serious efforts must be made by all concerned" to get the demobilization process of Nicaraguan resistance back on track.

+ Committee on Information ends session, aproving by consensus -- first achieved since 1983 -- two draft resolutions on journalistic freedom, aid to developing countries; work of Department of Public Information.

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The Security Council met this afternoon to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories. The representatives of Romania, Greece, Turkey and Egypt and the Observer for Palestine addressed the Council, calling for an end to Israeli moves to settle Soviet immigrants in the territories.

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On the third day of his stay in Vienna, the Secretary-General today continued his meetings with Austrian leaders while chairing the daily sessions of the regular spring meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

The Secretary-General last night met with Chancellor Franz Vranitsky, with whom he discussed co-operation between the United Nations and Austria, particularly in light of the 1995 World Fair which, together with Hungary, Austria will organize.

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They discussed both current political problems before the United Nations and global issues facing the world today. The Secretary-General concentrated on a possible role for the Organization in Cambodia, stressing the difficulties ahead if such a role should be entrusted to it by the Security Council. He mentioned, in particular, the questions of security guarantees, the funding of the operation and the terms of reference necessary for the United Nations to carry out its mission. There was a brief exchange of views on the situation in El Salvador and on some African problems.

The Secretary-General then addressed the general issue of global challenges facing the world community, such as protection of the environment, population, terrorism, infectious diseases, such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and the drug problem. He stressed that the United Nations was the only global forum to deal with those issues, which would be the great test for the Organization in the future. He briefed the Chancellor on preparations for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development.

The Chancellor briefed the Secretary-General on developments in the industrialized countries, specifically Austria, in connection with the environment. He then informed the Secretary-General of his Government's position concerning developments in Eastern Europe.

The Secretary-General, for his part, appealed to Western European countries, through the Chancellor, for assistance to the third world countries, in particular in Africa and Latin America. He stressed that West European assistance to Eastern Europe should not take the place of aid to developing countries.

Today, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Alois Mock, with whom he discussed the Iran/Iraq situation, in particular its humanitarian aspects. The conversation also focused on latest developments concerning Cyprus following the talks in New York two months ago between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities.

Today, ACC took up the issue of co-operation among United Nations agencies on the question of the environment and heard a presentation from Maurice Strong, newly appointed Secretary-General of the 1992 Environment and Development Conference.

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Serious efforts must be made by all concerned in order to get the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance back on track, according to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In an addendum to his report to the Security Council of 27 April, containing an up-to-date account of the manner in which the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) has carried out its functions, the Secretary-General stated that it was "a matter of grave concern" that the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance did not begin on 25 April, as stipulated in the agreements signed at Managua on 18-19 April.

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He stated that it had always been intended that the role of ONUCA in that process should be to help ensure the speedy return of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance to civilian life and not to assist them in establishing armed camps for an indefinite period of time on Nicaraguan territory.

That point was emphasized by his Representative to all the Nicaraguan participants in the negotiations on 18-19 April and it was on that basis, and on the strength of the agreements signed on that occation, that the Secretary-General recommended to the Council that ONUCA should play the part requested of it in monitoring the cease-fire and separation of forces, he stated.

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The Committee on Information has aprcved by consensus -- the first reached by it since 1983 -- a draft resolution that would have the General Assembly urge all countries to assure journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them.

The Assembly would further urge increased assistance to developing countries for the development of communication capabilities.

The Committee, ending its work yesterday, approved two draft resolutions by consensus, reached after long and difficult negotiations since the Committee's session began on 5 April.

The second draft resolution, concerning the work of the Department of Public Information (DPI), would ask the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI's activities were strengthened and improved to secure an objective and more coherent coverage of the Organization and its work. Further, DPI would be asked to co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for purposes of maximizing the contribution of the Department to UNESCO's efforts, and to enhance its co-operation with news agencies, particularly those of the developing countries.

Among the statements made before the Committee, Philip W. Arnold, of the United States, said his country's aid for development of communications exceeded $23 million for the current year. Consensus connoted harmony, he said, but not necessarily agreement. He remained opposed to any proposal which could be interpreted to justify restrictions, limitations or controls on journalists, information or the freedom to hold and express opinions.

The Committee Chairman, Orobola Fasehun of Nigeria, said the spirit of good will in contemporary international relations had enabled the Committee to overcome the stalemate that had deadlocked it for years. The broad agreement on freedom of information was a significant milestone, which should lead to concrete assistance to the developing countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/634
4 May 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of ONUCA for a further period of six months, until 7 November.

+ Secretary-General chairs final meeting of ACC's spring session; will leave Vienna tomorrow for Prague, to begin official visit to Czechoslovakia.

+ Fifth annual World Children's Day to be celebrated at Headquarters on Sunday, with 1,200 children from over 120 countries participating in what is being called the "Children's General Assembly".

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The Security Council this afternoon extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) for a further period of six months, until 7 November. It took that action by adopting, unanimously, the report of the Secretary-General of 27 April and its addendum of 2 May (document S/21274 and Add.1).

The Council decided to extend the mandate on the understanding, expressed by the Secretary-General in the addendum to his report, that ONUCA's tasks of monitoring the cease-fire and separation of forces in Nicaragua and demobilizing members of the Nicaraguan resistance would lapse with the completion of the demobilizing process not later that 10 June, and bearing in mind the need to continue to monitor expenditures carefully during this period of increasing demands on peace-keeping resources.

The Council welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the achievement of a negotiated political solution to the conflict in El Salvador, and requested him to keep the Council fully informed of further developments and to report on all aspects of ONUCA's operations and, in particular, to report to it not later than 10 June concerning the completion of the demobilization process.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today chaired the final meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) spring session in Vienna. The session was devoted to co-ordination on the drug problem; women and development; the environment, including the Chernobyl disaster; and various administrative matters.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will leave Vienna for Prague, to begin an official visit to Czechoslovakia.

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On Sunday, 6 May, the fifth annual World Children's Day will be celebrated at Headquarters with 1,200 children from over 120 countries participating in what is being called the "Children's General Assembly".

The delegates, aged 6 to 12 years, will offer their solutions to world problems and will sign a petition for the speedy ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Many of the children involved have been working on projects encompassing the theme of this year -- "We Will Shape the Future by Making a Difference Now". Projects include work on such issues as environmental pollution, racial prejudice, hunger, homelessness and drug abuse.

Actress and social activist Marlo Thomas will host the ceremony. One of the highlights will be an award given to Mother Teresa for her work with children in the slums of Calcutta.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/635
7 May 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Prague for four-day official visit to Czechoslovakia, meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Jiri Dienstbier, President Vaclav Havel and President of Federal Assembly Alexander Dubcek.

+ Disarmament Commission opens three-week session at Headquarters to discuss various aspects of arms race with a view to expediting negotiations to eliminate danger of nuclear war.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Prague on Saturday for a four-day visit to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR). After his arrival, he had talks with Jiri Dienstbier, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, who outlined to the Secretary-General changes that have taken place in the country over the past few months, and reaffirmed his Government's commitment to increasing its role and activities in the United Nations. He informed the Secretary-General, in particular, of the CSFR's intention to seek membership in the Human Rights Commission in view of the importance it gives to respect for human rights. The CSFR was also ready, he added, to host United Nations meetings in Prague and to participate actively in United Nations peace-keeping.

The Secretary-General expressed satisfaction at the evolution in the CSFR and welcomed the Minister's affirmation of support for the United Nations. He pointed out that the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was at the disposal of the Republic's Government to help it carry out its various initiatives.

Mr. Dienstbier and the Secretary-General exchanged views on global problems, focusing on those of the environment and terrorism. In that context, Mr. Dienstbier stressed the commitment of his Government to strengthening the role of international law. The Minister also informed the Secretary-General of the CSFR's initiative for the creation of a European Security Commission.

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The Secretary-General later addressed representatives of the Czechoslovak United Nations Association, and today he met with President Vaclav Havel. The talks concentrated on two main topics: the defence of human rights, which President Havel said formed a basis of CSFR's policy, and the willingness of his Government to strengthen its activities in the United Nations.

The Secretary-General again stressed the need for harmonizing development policies between developed and developing countries. He said it was in the interests of both sides that help to the third world should be maintained.

There was also a discussion of the situation in the Middle East and prospects for an international conference to solve the problem. President Havel briefed the Secretary-General on his country's initiative concerning the Middle East, and the Secretary-General said that the United Nations would welcome any initiative which could contribute to a solution of the problem.

After his meeting with President Havel, the Secretary-General went to the Parliament Building where he met with the President of the Federal Assembly, Alexander Dubcek. The meeting was mostly devoted to a description by Mr. Dubcek of the efforts to draft new legislation in order to bring the country in line with its new policy of democratization and economic enterprise.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will travel to Hungary.

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The Disarmament Commission opened its 1990 session this morning by formally adopting a General Assembly proposal on "ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission".

The proposal urges that the Commission's working agenda be limited to a maximum of four substantive items for in-depth consideration at each session, and that no subject should be allowed to stay on the agenda for more than three consecutive years.

In an opening statement, the Chairman of the Commission, Nana S. Sutresna of Indonesia, said the Commission should seek a "fresh approach" to its work based on the realization of the interdependence of States and the interrelation of global issues.

For Nepal, Jai Pratap Rana said that prospects for arms control and disarmament had never been better. He expressed the hope that the work of the Commission at the current session would quicken that process. Jan Eliasson of Sweden said there was a growing realization of the need for openness concerning all military matters. He said nuclear-weapon States should reconsider their current practice of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on board any ship at any time.

Ambassador Eliasson said fourth review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which would take place in a few months, should address "two factors of particular importance": that adherence

to the Treaty must be universal; and that all Treaty obligations must be fulfilled. The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles (INF Treaty) could be regarded as a major achievement in quantitative nuclear arms reduction, but the significant increase in nuclear arsenals since 1970, when the NPT came into force, made it important for that process to go even further.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/636
8 May 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General concludes visit to Czechoslovakia, meeting with Rudolf Schuster, Chairman of the Slovak National Council, and Milan Cic, Premier of the Slovak Republic, and arrives in Budapest to start three-day official visit to Hungary.

+ Special Committee on Peace-keeping begins work for 1990 at Headquarters; hears opening address by Vasiliy S. Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

+ Foreign Minister of Sweden addresses Seminar on Peace and Justice for the Palestinian People, in Stockholm; representative of Secretary-General, Chairman of Palestine Rights Committee make statements; message received from Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organization.

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On the last day of his official visit to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR), the Secretary-General this morning addressed Comenius University in Bratislava.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General had talks with Rudolf Schuster, Chairman of the Slovak National Council, and Milan Cic, Premier of the Slovak Republic.

During their talks, Chairman Schuster, Premier Cic and their colleagues briefed the Secretary-General on the new situation in Slovakia following the changes which took place last November. Slovakia was seeking the shortest possible way towards peace and democracy, Mr. Schuster told the Secretary-General, and would like to play an active part in shaping the future of Europe. Mr. Cic for his part described the economic situation in the Republic, particularly the ecological problems resulting from choices of sources of energy, and also explained the need for restructuring the Republic's industries.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations was following with great interest developments in Central and Eastern Europe, and welcomed the very

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peaceful way in which the Czech and Slovak Republics had evolved towards democracy. He also stressed that much was expected from the CSFR in the field of co-operation with developing countries, and he recalled that before the Second World War Czechoslovakia had been a pioneer in providing technical assistance to poorer nations. The Secretary-General reaffirmed his conviction that the CSFR could play an important role in the field of aid to developing countries through the United Nations.

The Secretary-General arrived later today in Budapest at the start of a three-day official visit to the Republic of Hungary. He was met by Vice Foreign Minister Ferenc Somogyi at the border station of Komarom. He then drove to Budapest, where during the next two days he will have meetings with Hungarian leaders, as well as visiting some of the main sights in the country. He will also address representatives of the Hungarian United Nations Association.

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Peace-keeping operations have proved to be "an inescapable necessity in the context of many conflicts", according to Vasiliy S. Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, who yesterday opened the meeting of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, at Headquarters. He said their success, however, depended not only on the consent of the parties concerned, but also required the consistent support of the Security Council, a clear and practicable mandate, the readiness of Member States to volunteer troops and adequate financial arrangements. In view of the evolving world situation which might well assign a broader role to peace-keeping operations, those conditions had become even more crucial.

The newly elected Chairman of the Committee, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, first drew the attention of the Committee to the General Assembly resolution of last December, by which the Assembly urged the Special Committee to continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations. In that connection, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a compilation of observations and suggestions on peace-keeping operations submitted by Member States, which is now before the Committee.

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Dialogue between the Israeli Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is necessary, and it will come one day. This was stated by the Foreign Minister of Sweden, Sten Andersson, in an opening address before the United Nations Seminar on Peace and Justice for the Palestinian People, being held in Stockholm and organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

He said Sweden had constantly maintained that an international peace conference under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO),

remained the best means available to achieve a stable and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict and the question of Palestine. An initial dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians should, hopefully, lead to such a conference with proper international guarantees and means.

Representing Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, Ronald I. Spiers, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, said that as East-West discussion moderated and opportunities for co-operation widened, the Security Council might begin to play a role in a comprehensive settlement.

The Committee Chairman, Absa Claude Diallo of Senegal, said the Committee's hope in organizing the Seminar was to contribute to the peace process by providing Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans with an ideal forum for discussion to identify specific and effective steps to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question. She welcomed the fact that many in Israel were opposed to the occupation of Palestinian territory, having concluded that the two-state solution was the best option for Israel's security and economic needs.

In a message read out at the meeting, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the theme which his people put forward in its peace initiative was: "Peace and justice for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples". However, peace and justice could not be achieved so long as Israel refused to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Seminar, which ends on Friday, is the fifth European regional seminar on the Palestinian question.

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United Nations

Press Release

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9 May 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, continuing his official visit to Hungary, holds talks with government leaders.

+ Disarmament Commission ends general exchange of views, hearing calls for progress in nuclear and conventional disarmament. Speakers stress importance of confidence-building measures.

+ Economic and Social Council's Social Committee adopts 13 draft resolutions and two draft decisions on women's issues. Begins debate on social development.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today held talks with Hungarian leaders on the second day of his official visit to the Republic of Hungary.

He first met with Gyula Horn, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who informed him of the transformation now taking place in his country, and gave an evaluation of the present situation in Europe, with its possible consequences for the disarmament process. The Minister stressed that despite the successful transition of his country from dictatorship to democracy, problems remained to be solved in Central Europe and in Europe in general. They discussed a number of international problems, including Central America, Iran/Iraq, and the changes taking place in South Africa following the recent meeting between President F.W. De Klerk and Nelson Mandela.

The Secretary-General then met with Myklos Nemeth, Acting Prime Minister of Hungary, who also briefed the him on the present situation in his country, stressing the dangers that beset the new democracies in Central Europe, both political and historical in nature.

The Secretary-General welcomed the Prime Minister's expressions of support for the United Nations, and mentioned the possibility of co-ordinating European co-operation within the United States Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which he said was the proper forum for dialogue between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

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The Secretary-General visited the Chamber of the new Hungarian Parliament, which is at present drafting amendments to the country's Constitution, and expressed his personal satisfaction at seeing "democracy in action" in the Parliament Chamber.

The Secretary-General also met with Arpad Goncz, President ad interim of the Republic of Hungary, who stressed his country's full commitment to the United Nations. The Secretary-General expressed his satisfaction that the democratic process in Hungary had taken place peacefully, according to "UN philosophy" on the basis of the principles of the Charter.

President Goncz raised the question of Hungarian minorities in the Carpathian Basin and the problem of refugees from Romania to his country. He said Hungary was not asking for a revision of present borders, but pressing for equal rights for Hungarian minorities in neighbouring countries.

The Secretary-General later addressed representatives of the Hungarian United Nations Association.

Before leaving Czechoslovakia yesterday, the Secretary-General had addressed the student body and faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava.

* * *

Speakers called for advances in nuclear and conventional disarmament and stressed the importance of confidence-building measures, as the Disarmament Commission concluded its general exchange of views yesterday.

Among those addressing the Commission, Stephen J. Ledogar of the United States said it should focus on real security and arms control problems which were emerging from the shadows of fading East-West confrontation. He suggested that the Commission take up question of regional security, and that it should examine conventional arms imbalances outside of Europe.

B.P. Krasulin, for the Soviet Union, said his country had taken up the principle of "reasonable sufficiency for defence", was undertaking unilateral armed force reductions and had reduced its military budget by some 8 per cent.

He looked forward to agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in the strategic nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States. Negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons should begin before an agreement on conventional armed forces in Europe was signed. The present military groups -- the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) -- had to be gradually transformed into a non-bloc system.

As in previous years, the Commission is to carry out the major portion of its work in its subsidiary bodies. Its Committee of the Whole will consider aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, and disarmament; elaboration of a general approach to nuclear and conventional disarmament negotiations; and the Commission's draft report.

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Four working groups will deal with South Africa's nuclear capability, the United Nations disarmament role, conventional disarmament and the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, respectively. Two consultation groups will address naval disarmament and "objective information on military matters", respectively.

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The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council has called for a world-wide campaign to draw attention to the need for women's participation at all levels and in all aspects of national life.

Concluding its debate on the situation of women, yesterday, the Committee adopted a number of resolutions among which one would have the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to mount a campaign, through the Department of Public Information (DPI), to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies to the Year 2000, adopted at the 1985 United Nations Conference on Women.

By another resolution, the Council would call for the convening by the General Assembly of a world conference on women in 1995.

Under a resolution on the situation of Palestinian women, adopted by a vote of 37 in favour to 1 against (United States), with 11 abstentions, the Council would strongly condemn oppressive Israeli measures against the intifadah and the consequent suffering experienced by Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territories.

By another resolution, on women and children under apartheid, adopted by a vote of 40 in favour to 2 against (United Kingdom, United States), with 9 abstentions, the Council would unequivocally condemn the South African regime for its imposition of the state of emergency, the forcible separation of black families and detention and imprisonment of women and children. The Council would urge the international community not to relax sanctions against South Africa until all the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly last December, were met.

By a resolution on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, the Council would request the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to increase the number of women employed throughout the United Nations system to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent of the total by 1995.

The Committee also began its debate on social development, hearing an introductory statement by Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. In his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the treatment of Offenders to be held in Havana in August, he said it would consider more initiatives than all such previous gatherings put together.

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United Nations

Press Release

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10 May 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General launches appeal for urgent assistance to four drought-stricken provinces in central and southern Angola. Expert group reports 800,000 persons under threat of starvation in that country.

+ Total of 132 Nicaraguan Resistance members demobilized by United Nations Observer Group in Central America in five of the country's seven security zones.

+ Gustave Feissel arrives in Cyprus to meet, on behalf of Secretary-General, with President Vassiliou of Cyprus, and also with Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

+ Secretary-General's Representative on the implementation of the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan is in Geneva for expert-level talks with delegation of the Soviet Union, to focus on "international consensus".

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today launched an appeal to meet the urgent needs of the population of four drought-stricken provinces in central and southern Angola.

According to a joint report prepared by an expert group which visited the provinces, as well as updated government information, almost 800,000 persons are severely affected, many of whom continue to be under threat of starvation despite food assistance which has already started to be provided by several donors. Hunger-related deaths have occurred in large numbers, especially among children and other vulnerable groups. Malnutrition has increased the risk of infectious and contagious diseases.

The expert group was composed of representatives of the Angolan Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The mission report notes that the drought is now in its fourth consecutive year and has had devastating effects. Together with the effects of the ongoing war, seven southern and central provinces are considered by the

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Government as disaster-stricken areas in need of international assistance. Of these, four -- Benguela, Huila, Namibe and Cunene -- are the most severely affected and are the subject of the appeal.

To meet the immediate food needs of the population for an initial four-month period, the Secretary-General is appealing for a minimum of 45,000 metric tons of food aid to be distributed to approximately 800,000 severely affected persons. Some of the aid would be made available through commercial channels.

In addition, the Secretary-General is requesting basic drug kits, medical equipment and technical assistance to minimize the effects of malnutrition.

Other needs include $500,000 for airlifting 500 metric tons of food into areas that would otherwise be inaccessible because of conflict; additional storage capacity, and supplementary personnel, including a logistics consultant to assist the Angolans in monitoring food aid distribution.

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It was announced today at United Nations Headquarters in New York that a total of 132 Nicaraguan Resistance members had been demobilized, in five of the seven zones in the country.

Another 660 Resistance members were waiting to be demobilized, but an official said they could not be processed because of photographic equipment failure.

The United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) is currently operating in the five security zones with a total of some 580 Venezuelan soldiers and 64 United Nations Military Observers in the disarming and destruction of weapons of the contras.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Representative on the implementation of the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, is now in Geneva for talks at expert level with a delegation from the Soviet Union. This is the fourth round of expert discussion between the United Nation and the Soviet Union since December. Two meetings were held in Moscow last December and in January, and one in New York in March.

A United Nations official told correspondents today there must first be an understanding between the guarantors and Afghanistan's immediate neighbours for an international consensus, allowing the Afghans themselves to exercise their right to self-determination. It was on this international consensus that the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative had been focusing their efforts. They have had various contacts with the United States, the Soviet Union, Iran and Pakistan.

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A United Nations official told correspondents today that Gustave Feissel had arrived in Cyprus yesterday (Wednesday), and had met with President Vassiliou. He was planning to meet soon with Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Mr. Feissel is in Cyprus to assess the situation for the Secretary-General, who will decide when the next high-level talks will be. Correspondents were reminded that Oscar Camillion, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cyprus, has been absent from the country for medical reasons and that Mr. Feissel would be filling in for him until he comes back.

The Security Council, in its last resolution on Cyprus of 9 March, had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation by 31 May, and to continue to pursue his mission of good offices in order to achieve the earliest possible progress in the negotiating between the two leaders.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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11 May 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says recent press reports of new "democratization" policy in Albania are "extremely encouraging".

+ Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, concluding general debate, is addressed by Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

+ United Nations Seminar on Peace and Justice for the Palestinian People ends five-day session in Stockholm, adopting, by consensus, document proposing two states, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, and international peace conference on the Middle East to negotiate such a two-state solution.

+ Total of more than $106 million pledged by 13 donors for emergency assistance to Mozambique at Special Meeting held recently at Headquarters.

+ Total of over $904 million is owed to United Nations regular budget, according to report on status of contributions by Member States as of 30 April; United States, Japan, Soviet Union, South Africa and Federal Republic of Germany largest debtors.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated today in Budapest that recent press reports of a new "democratization" policy in Albania were "extremely encouraging".

The Secretary-General, leaving Hungary for Tirana to begin a two-day visit to Albania, where he is to meet with the country's President and other government leaders, told news correspondents he hoped his visit to Albania would "give an impulse in order to move forward in the right direction".

Asked what concrete steps he thought the Albanians should take, the Secretary-General said he was "very interested in the opening up of Albania to the international community, as well as its full implementation of human rights conventions". He welcomed Albania's decision to join the Conference on

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Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which he considered "a positive step which needed to be encouraged".

The new policy of "democratization" was announced by the Albanian President, Ramiz Alia, late last year, and was advanced by a series of liberalizing laws announced last Wednesday.

* * *

Concluding its general debate, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations has been addressed by Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, who gave the Committee a report on current activities of the Secretariat relating to peace-keeping.

He said that during the last 12 months, two peace-keeping operations had ended, and one had been set up. It was of particular satisfaction that the largest operation -- the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia -- had finished ahead of time and under budget, which he hoped would be a model for the future.

Turning to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), he said it was the first peace-keeping operation in the "new world". It had been set up as an observer group, but later, armed troops were added for a specific purpose, and it had also shown that the presence of the United Nations forces generated a demand for it to perform functions not forseen in its original mandate.

In the Committee's debate, a number of speakers expressed concern that the means of financing peace-keeping operations be put on a sound footing. They believed that the effectiveness of such operations, particularly in their early stages, could be greatly enhanced by measures such as training programmes for personnel and the stockpiling of supplies and equipment.

* * *

Two states, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, and an international peace conference on the Middle East to negotiate such a two-state solution were among the recommendations adopted today by consensus in the United Nations Seminar on Peace and Justice for the Palestinian People as it ended its five-day session in Stockholm.

Such a conference, the participants insisted, should be convened under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, and be based on Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The Council was urged to expedite the convening of the conference and to adopt interim measures, including the deployment of a United Nations force to safeguard the physical security of the people of the occupied Palestinian territory.

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Israel was urged in the document to respond constructively to PLO's 1988 peace initiative and to international efforts aimed at a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. That Government was also invited to participate in future forums such as this one, which had brought together Israelis and Palestinians, to express the official viewpoint.

The participants welcomed the United States Government's opening of dialogue with PLO, and called for the level to be raised and the scope expanded.

They also stressed the valuable contribution that European countries could make towards achieving an equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and expressed appreciation for the positions adopted by those Governments and the European Economic Community (EEC) with respect to the Palestinian question.

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A tentative total of $106,410,000 has been pledged by 13 donors for emergency assistance to 1.4 million internally displaced Mozambicans and some 154,000 returnees from neighbouring States for the current year. Pledges fell short by some $30 million of the emergency requirements of $136 million outlined in the appeal document prepared by the Government of Mozambique in collaboration with the United Nations.

The pledges, made at a Special Meeting on Emergency Assistance to Mozambique held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 April at the invitation of the Secretary-General, have now been collated and reviewed with donors by the Government of Mozambique and the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Maputo.

A number of other delegations, including France, Japan, Spain and the Soviet Union, indicated that they would support the emergency programme and that they were conducting discussions with the Government of Mozambique regarding new pledges or an increase of existing pledges.

The most recent report on the status of contributions by Member States to the United Nations shows that as of 30 April, a total of over $904 million to the regular budget was still outstanding. Of that amount, nearly $477 million is for the current calender year, and $427 million from all prior years.

Of the total $904 million still owed by Member States, the United States is responsible for nearly two thirds, almost $585 million. Japan is the second largest debtor with overdue contributions totalling close to $72 million. The Soviet Union owes a little over $42 million, South Africa has outstanding contributions of more than $40 million, and the Federal Republic of Germany owes nearly $32 million.

The separate United Nations peace-keeping budget is short nearly $400 million.

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United Nations

Press Release

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14 May 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General arrives in Rome for talks with Italian leaders and others; has "useful exchange of views" with Iraqi Foreign Minister. Visit to Rome follows talks in Tirana with Albanian President and other government leaders.

+ In letter to Secretary-General, eight countries contributing troops to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus express "grave concern" at growing financial deficit of the Force.

+ Director-General of World Health Organization appoints Michael H. Merson as Director of WHO Global Programme on AIDS.

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Following an official visit to Albania, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Rome today, where he had talks devoted to two of the major problems on his agenda: Western Sahara and Iran-Iraq.

At a meeting with Bechir Mustapha, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), there was discussion of the Secretary-General's efforts to organize a credible referendum in Western Sahara.

The Secretary-General then held talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis on a number of international problems, including Iran-Iraq, Lebanon, Western Sahara and Cyprus. The Secretary-General briefed the Foreign Minister on his recent trip to Central Europe mentioning, in particular, the debt problem in the light of the report on that subject which is being prepared by his Personal Representative, former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

He also informed the Foreign Minister of his discussions in Tirana with Albanian leaders on a number of political, economic and social problems, including the problem of six Albanians who had lived in the Italian Embassy in

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Tirana for over four years. The Secretary-General reaffirmed his concerns for that humanitarian case and told the Foreign Minister he had received assurances that the six would be able to leave the Embassy soon.

The Secretary-General also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. A United Nations official said afterwords that they had a "useful exchange of views". The Minister explained to the Secretary-General the recent exchange of letters and contacts between Iran and Iraq, and reaffirmed the role of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 598 (1987) in the peace-making process.

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During his two-day official visit to Albania, the Secretary-General had talks with Albanian leaders, meeting respectively with President Ramiz Alia and Prime Minister Adil Carcani. In all these meetings, the main themes were Albania's reinforced co-operation with, and activity in, the United Nations, the country's political and social developments, the world's economic situation and the recent evolution of the situation in Europe as well as the Secretary-General's reaffirmation of the importance of human and individual rights.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Carcani, the Secretary-General said he hoped his visit would reinforce the links between Albania and the United Nations. Mr. Carcani stressed that his country favoured the solution of all international problems in the spirit of constructive debate and tolerance. The Secretary-General could count on Albania's resolute support in his efforts to solve international problems.

The Secretary-General then met with President Alia, who reviewed Albania's social and economic achievements, and its conceptions in matters of security. The debt question was discussed, as well as Albania's relations with other countries and their development. The President gave his views on the situation in the Balkans where relations, he said, should be based on dialogue and good neighbourly relations.

On the second day of his official visit to Albania, the Secretary-General talked to correspondents yesterday at Tirana airport. Asked for the "concrete results"of his visit, the Secretary-General said, "It is very important that you understand that I did not come to Albania to negotiate anything". He said he was very pleased to have had the opportunity to discuss all international issues with the Albanian authorities. He said the Albanian side had informed him "amply" of its reforms, and assured him that it had embarked on a process which would continue. The Secretary-General said he found these reforms were a move "in the right direction".

Ending his European tour, the Secretary-General leaves Rome tomorrow morning, 15 May, for New York.

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The eight countries with troops in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) -- Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom -- are "gravely concerned" at the growing deficit of the Force's Special Account.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representatives of the eight nations said the deficit placed upon them "an excessive and wholly unfair" financial burden. They said they were disappointed that, despite the Secretary-General's efforts in drawing the attention of Member countries to the problem, there had been a further decline in the level of voluntary contributions to the financing of UNFICYP in the course of last year. The accumulated shortfall in the UNFICYP Special Account had reached almost $175 million, and the United Nations had been able to meet the claims of troop-contributing countries only up to December 1980.

They said they still believed there was no alternative to the Secretary-General's proposal that the Security Council agree to the financing of the United Nations share of the cost of the Force from assessed, rather than voluntary, contributions; the Secretary-General should renew his efforts to that end.

* * *

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, today formally appointed Dr. Michael H. Merson of the United States, an international civil servant with WHO for 12 years, as Director of the Agency's Global Programme on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Dr. Merson has been Acting Director of the Programme since 26 March, following the resignation of Dr. Jonathan Mann.

A WHO official said Dr. Merson would play a crucial role in implementing the work of the Global Programme on AIDS, in accordance with the Director-General's philosophy of "continuity with change". He would undertake the leadership of the Programme at a time when WHO was confronted with major new challenges in the fight against the AIDS pandemic, including an acceleration of its work at the country level, increased care for the ill through practical means, and the reinforcement of vital research activities.

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United Nations

Press Release

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15 May 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations Population Fund releases this year's "State of World Population Report", saying the 1990s will see the greatest growth in human numbers of any decade.

+ Director of External Affairs of the International Monetary Fund briefs correspondents on outcome of this year's meeting of Fund's Interim Committee, and resultant changes.

+ Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council begins consideration of human rights questions, hearing statements from Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and from Member countries.

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The 1990s will see the greatest growth in human numbers of any decade, according to a report released today by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The agency predicts that the world's population, which now stands at 5.3 billion, will increase by another billion by the end of the 1990s, adding the equivalent of another China. During the next century, global population could double or triple depending on actions taken in the population field.

According to the report, the world population is currently growing by some 90 million people a year, with 90 per cent of that growth taking place in the developing countries. Progress in reducing birth rates around the world has been slower than expected. In 15 countries -- 13 of them in Africa -- birth rates actually rose between 1960-1965 and 1980-1985. In another 23, the birth rate fell by less than 2 per cent. If fertility reductions continue to be slower than projected, the report said, the global population could reach 14 billion by the end of the next century.

The report also states that of the current 5.3 billion persons on Earth, about a billion live in poverty.

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According to the Population Fund's Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, the next 10 years would decide the shape of the twenty-first century. She said the choice must be to act decisively to stop population growth, attack poverty and protect the environment, or to hand over to our children a poisoned inheritance.

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Today at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, the Director of External Affairs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Azili Mohammed, briefed correspondents on the outcome of this year's meeting of the Fund's Interim Committee and the resultant changes.

Mr. Mohammed said the Committee, made up of 22 IMF members and concerned with political issues, concentrated this year on two major issues: quotas and arrears.

The IMF, he explained, unlike international development assistance institutions, was a balance-of-payment lender. It gained resources through a quota system based on a country's gross national product (GNP). In other words, the amount IMF received from a country was based on its GNP, the amount a country could receive in loans from the Fund was in turn a direct proportion of that quota. He said IMF had decided to increase those quotas by 50 per cent, increasing the Fund's income from a current $120 billion to about $180 billion, he said.

Mr. Mohammed also said the image of IMF was changing. He said it was important for countries to think not in terms of what was happening to their economies as a result of the IMF's policies, but rather, what would be happening without the help of IMF.

He said the Fund was no longer willing, as it had been in the past, to go along with countries "blaming it for everything". He said making IMF a scapegoat "doesn't help any country".

Mr. Mohammed said Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria had applied for membership, and the Fund was currently in the process of evaluating their applications.

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The obligation of Governments to promote and protect human rights and the need to strengthen the role of the Commission on Human Rights was stressed today, as the Second (Social) Committee of the Economic and Social Council began its consideration of human rights questions.

Other issues touched upon were the proposed enlargement of the Commission and the enhancement of its effectiveness, as well as the resources the Commission might need to meet the increasing demands on the Organization's programmes in the field of human rights.

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The Committee has before it several reports and a total of nine draft resolutions and 29 draft decisions for action on the question of human rights as contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights. It deferred until tomorrow action on five draft resolutions relating to social development issues.

Among those addressing the Committee, Francis M. Hayes, of Ireland, for the 12 members of the European Economic Community (EEC), said the Twelve were concerned at the tendency to use "no action" motions to seek to restrict discussion of important topics when human rights issues were being dealt with in United Nations forums. They believed that the credibility of the Commission, and indeed of the Organization in general, was undermined when Member States, for reasons incompatible with their obligation to safeguard human rights, sought to prevent the Commission from pronouncing itself on issues of current concern.

Thomas R. Pickering, of the United States, said future assistance by his country to El Salvador would be affected by the handling of the case of the Jesuit priests and other human rights violations in that country. On the question of human rights in Iran, the United States had been disappointed that the fact-finding trip to Iran last January by a United Nations Special Representative had been brief and that it had afforded him only limited access to dissidents, victims of human rights abuses and others with highly significant information. On China, his country greatly regretted that a "no-action" motion had prevented the Commission from considering a draft resolution on human rights in that country.

Alexander Slaby, of Czechoslovakia, spoke of the effort "to make the approach to human rights less political and less ideological, to reach a constructive, business-like and working consideration of the problems".

For the Soviet Union, Felix Stanevsky called for efforts to prevent the Commission from continuing to be a forum of confrontation. His country had proposed confidence-building measures to streamline the work of the Commission and to make it more effective and hoped they would be taken into account, he said.

In a statement to the Committee, Margaret Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, said that in the area of drug abuse control, there had been momentous developments and the subject was now a dominant theme in deliberations. The system-wide action plan of the United Nations on drug abuse control had acquired greatly heightened significance. Its implementation would mean the provision of additional resources for the drug units in Vienna as well as for the rest of the United Nations system. The additional regular budget funding for the Division of Narcotic Drugs was about $3 million per biennium.

She said the protracted and painful period of attempts at economic adjustment in developing countries and recent developments in Eastern Europe had many ramifications for the specialized programmes of the Vienna Office. The mission of the Office should be to assist in translating those political developments into real improvements in opportunities for the man in the street, or woman on the farm, especially in the developing countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/642
16 May 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ After meeting with Secretary-General, Mayor of Lima, Peru, says 2 million people living in outskirts of the city are endangered by drought in the area; calls on Peruvians outside the country for help in "extreme emergency situation".

+ Social Committee of Economic and Social Council approves draft resolutions on equal opportunities for disabled, achieving social justice, and support for forthcoming United Nations Crime Congress.

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The Mayor of Lima, Peru, Ricardo Belmont Cassinelli, told correspondents at United Nations Headquarters in New York today that 2 million people living on the outskirts of the city were endangered by poverty, because of recent drought in the area. He said it was an "extreme emergency situation", as there was no water and no food for the people affected.

The Mayor had a meeting earlier with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, his compatriot, to discuss how the United Nations could be of help. The Mayor said his country had initiated a campaign called "a cup of milk", addressed to the international community to make it focus on Peruvian children and their needs. He said the campaign had three phases, among which was co-ordination of the role of the United Nations agencies operating in Peru -- the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund. The Mayor noted that Margaret Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, had been on a four-day mission to Peru to assess the problem and the relief effort required.

A United Nations official said later that the purpose of Ms. Anstee's mission, among other things, had been to co-ordinate contacts between the United Nations agencies and to seek the approval of the Peruvian authorities to support the planned emergency relief operations.

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The establishment of a working group of government experts to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons was suggested under a draft resolution adopted today by the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council. The draft would have the Council ask the United Nations Commission for Social Development to consider the establishment of such a working group.

According to the draft, one of three approved by the Committee, the Council would express concern that disabled persons were still prevented from participating fully in all aspects of life, as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons neared its end in 1992. The rules would be considered by the Council at its first regular session of 1993 and submitted to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Under another draft approved today, the Secretary-General would be requested by the Council to examine ways in which social justice could be achieved, when preparing studies and reports on social problems.

By a further draft, the Council would invite intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which had consistently supported the United Nations programme in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to continue doing so, particularly during the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to be held in Havana beginning 27 August.

Action on draft resolutions relating to capital punishment and to the world social situation was deferred.

Among those addressing the Committee, Bethany Armstrong of Canada said the real challenge for the United Nations in the 1990s in the field of human rights was the implementation of existing instruments on the question. Speaking for the Ukraine, Valeriy P. Kuchinski said reforms were being carried out in his country in the area of law, the economy and political system. A new Parliament elected on a democratic basis had begun work yesterday.

Siegfried Zachmann, of the German Democratic Republic, said a government policy statement had emphasized that the creation of a united Germany was inseparably linked with the implementation of human rights. He said the Government would from now on display a new understanding, based on democracy, of questions relating to the strengthening of civil and political rights and the international control of the implementation system. Arnold Skibsted, observer from Denmark, speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said allegations concerning violations of human rights could not be rejected by States as interference in internal affairs.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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17 May 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly adopts resolution on consultative meeting of senior officials to precede September Paris Conference on Least Developed Countries.

+ Secretary-General says he is "gratified" by transfer to Rome of six Albanians who had been taking refuge in Italian Embassy in Tirana for over four years.

+ Social Committee of Economic and Social Council approves draft resolution on world social situation.

+ International Telecommunication Union, oldest specialized agency in the United Nations system, celebrates its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary.

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The General Assembly decided today that the Second Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September, should be preceded by a two-day meeting for consultations among senior officials on 30 and 31 August.

The resolution on the Paris Conference, adopted without a vote, was introduced to the Assembly by Hugo Navajas-Mogro of Bolivia, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries. It also asked the Secretary-General to invite participation in the Conference by States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies; observer organizations; national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU); heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other organs of the United Nations; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Finally, the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help in meeting the

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expenses of representatives of the least developed countries to allow their full participation in the Conference. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to finance the travel expenses of three representatives from each of those nations, from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

Among those addressing the Assembly today, Ole Kristian Holthe of Norway, for the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway), said the final document of the Conference should be comprehensive and contain clear commitments to promote the development of the least developed countries. The difficult situation of the least developed countries must also be taken into account in preparing for the new international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

John O. Burke of Ireland, for the 12 member States of the European Community, said those countries were important providers of aid to the least developed nations and had been taking steps to increase both the volume and the quality of that aid. He said action was urgently required since many of the least developed countries would not be able to achieve sustained development without substantial support, even if they implemented sound national strategies.

Forty-two nations are currently defined as "least developed". With a combined population of some 400 million, they are the poorest and weakest partners in the international community.

* * *

A United Nations official said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was "gratified" by the transfer to Rome of six Albanians who had been taking refuge in the Italian Embassy in Tirana for over four years.

The official told correspondents the Secretary-General had discussed this humanitarian case with the authorities in Tirana during his visit to Albania over the week-end and was "very happy at the outcome".

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A draft resolution on the world social situation has been approved in the Social Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

By the draft, the Council would request the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1990 report on the world social situation, to give high priority to analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living, particularly in developing countries. Chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems must be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions, according to the draft.

The Committee is continuing its debate on human rights questions. Among the speakers, Ravjaaglin Mounkhou, observer from Mongolia, said radical

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/644
18 May 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Economic and Social Council decides to defer consideration of draft resolution on Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident until its July session in Geneva.

+ Social Committee of Economic and Social Council approves drafts on consequences of aid to South Africa; use of mercenaries; follow-up of anti-apartheid convention.

+ Forty-third World Health Assembly's general debate on work of World Health Organization concludes in Geneva, adopting resolution welcoming Namibia as member country.

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The Economic and Social Council has decided to defer consideration of a draft resolution on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident until its July session in Geneva. Delegations were requested to provide additional information on the economic and social consequences of the accident.

The draft text, which was introduced by the representative of the Ukraine, would have the Council request the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for a programme of international co-operation to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident and to report to the next session of the General Assembly. The Council would also request the Secretary-General to send an inter-agency mission to the areas affected by the accident to evaluate their priority needs.

Also today, the representative of Mauritania, speaking on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution concerning implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in November 1983.

Under terms of that draft, the Council would call on Governments to encourage positive change in South Africa based on the guidelines set out in the Declaration on Apartheid, adopted at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly, in particular, by maintaining existing measures against

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South Africa until "there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible change".

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All Governments would be called upon to co-operate with a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in updating a report on the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting the "racist and colonialist regime" of South Africa, under a draft resolution approved today by the Council's Social Committee.

By the draft, approved by a recorded vote of 32 in favour to 7 against, with 7 abstentions, the Council would request the Secretary-General to bring the updated report to the attention of Governments whose national financial institutions continue to deal with the regime of South Africa.

Under another draft decision, approved by the Committee in a recorded vote, the Council would extend for two years the mandate of another Special Rapporteur to enable him to submit further conclusions and recommendations on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. The vote was 33 in favour to 3 against (United States, Canada and Japan), with 11 abstensions.

Also approved by a recorded vote was a recommendation that the Group of Three, established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, should meet before the forty-seventh session of the Commission to consider reports of States parties to that Convention. The draft decision was approved by a recorded vote of 34 in favour to 1 against (United States), with 13 abstensions.

The draft resolution and the two draft decisions were among a total of nine draft resolutions and 29 draft decisions contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-sixth session approved by the Committee today.

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While lasting peace is the foundation for sustainable health and equity, the key to bringing about lasting peace is reconciliation through health. This was stated by Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaking (yesterday) at the conclusion of the forty-third World Health Assembly's general debate on the work of WHO during the last two years.

The Director-General said that listening to Ministers of Health, who spoke about the health situation in their own countries during the two weeks of the Assembly, he was impressed by how much progress had been made. However, the achievements must encourage the work to continue and to ensure sustainability.

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In a resolution adopted by acclamation, the Health Assembly welcomed the admission of Namibia to WHO and emphasized the urgent need to mobilize international support for the reconstruction and development of the health sector in that country. The Director-General was asked to provide intensified technical co-operation and the necessary assistance to deliver health programmes to Namibia, while member countries were asked to provide the necessary moral and financial support.

The Assembly emphasized the importance of the determining role of women in development. It urged member countries to ensure that programmes for the control of HIV infection and AIDS were co-ordinated with other programmes for women, children and families, particularly maternal and child health, family planning, and sexually transmitted disease control. The Assembly noted that the theme of World AIDS Day on 1 December is "Women and Aids".

The resolution also referred to health and medical problems in Lebanon that, according to the Assembly, have reached a "critical level". It asked the Director-General to expand substantially WHO's programme of health, medical and relief assistance to that country.

The Director-General was also asked to pursue the implementation of special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

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